Fig. 5 shows a prior art nubbin 50 having a collar 52 and a threaded portion 54 having male threads which can be threaded into, for example, the box end 12 of the tubular joint 10 illustrated in FIG. 1.

Referring now to FIG.'s 13A and 13B, an isometric view of the latch assembly 100 is illustrated which shows the band 80 illustrated in FIG.'s 9, 10 and 11 that shows, in addition, the latch assembly 100 which is used to narrow the gap 84 illustrated in FIG. 11. A padeye 102 is attached to the other end of the band 80. A draw bolt 106 passes through the padeye 102 and has a spring 109 which is held on to the draw bolt 106 by a nut 110 which can be adjusted as needed, to vary the tension in the band and control the grip action of the band 80. A handle 112 is attached to a padeye 104.

Referring now to FIG. 14A and FIG. 14B, the draw bolt padeye 102 is shown in greater detail. In FIG's 15A and 15B, the draw bolt 106 has a first threaded end and a smooth intermediate section 108 and a second end having a through-hole 111 through which the through-hole may receive an axis bolt which allows the links 114 and 116 to pivot. It should be appreciated that the intermediate smooth section 108 of the draw bolt 106 passes through the center portion of the padeye 102 and that the spring 109 illustrated in FIG. 13A is maintained between the padeye 102 and the nut 110. It should be appreciated that the tension in spring 109 can be altered by rotation of the nut 110 by one way or the other. The handle padeye 104 is shown in great detail in FIG.'s 16A and 16B.

have its shoulder end 64 placed over the casing joint first and when properly positioned, usually a foot or so below the box end of the tubular joint 10, then the handle 112 for the latch mechanism 100 will be rotated away from the end having the nut 110 thereon. The latch is illustrated in the closed position in FIG. 13B. Closing the handle that way causes the two ends of the band 80 to be brought closer together where the internal diameter of the band is resting up against the exterior of the tubular joint 10. As seen in FIG.'s 8 and 9-11, as the inclined surface 82, shown in FIG. 10, tries to run down the inclined surface 81 of FIG. 8, the band 80 moves tighter and tighter against the external surface of the tubular joint 10. The additional weight of the casing joint only tends to make the connection tighter and tighter against the external surface of the tubular joint 10.

When using the apparatus shown in FIG. 6 with the band 80 therein, and when the device is to be used as a thread protector, it will be turned upside-down and run past the pin end 14 to a point at which the band 80 will contact the exterior surface of the tubular joint 10, but the body 90 of the thread protector shown in FIG. 12 will not contact the threads of the pin end 14. Any movement of the casing joint 10 with respect to the thread protector, only makes the band 80 go tighter against the exterior surface of the tubular joint 10, which prevents the thread protector from falling off of the tubular joint 10 and will thus protect the threads of the pin end 14 until such time as the handle 112 is rotated back the other direction to allow the band 80 to fit more loosely around the tubular joint 10, and thus allow the thread protector to be easily removed from the tubular joint 10.

Referring now to FIG. 20, a prior art joint of oilfield tubular 10 such as is illustrated in greater detail in FIG. 1, and having an upper box end 12 and a lower pin end 14, is illustrated as having a load lifting ring 60 in accordance with the present invention attached near the upper box